वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बोल्ला बुल्ली रमैया): क) से (ग) जी, हां। टायर उद्योग के प्रतिवेदन की जांच की जा रही है तथा जैसे ही इस पर कोई निर्णय लिया जाता है, इसकी घोषणा अधिसूचना के जरिए की जाएगी।

Inclusion of Indian Units in the U.S. watch list

1426. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem relating to unilateral US decision to include dozens of Indian units in the watch list violating World Trade Organisation regulations;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up the issue with the US Government; and

(c) if so, details of the result achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) The US Commerce Department has notified a list of foreign end users including four Indian units viz. Bharat Electronics. Ltd. (BEL), Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research and Indian Rare Earths Ltd., Under US domestic legislation pertaining to US non-proliferation concerns. Following this notification, all imports from the US by these organisations will be under licence procedures. The Government has taken up the matter with the US authorities. India's opposition to such ad hoc discriminatory export control regimes has been reiterated to the US Government. Indis's exemplary record is not permitting export of these items to countries where it could be used for non-civilan purposes has been pointed out.

Abnormal Rise in Tea Prices

1427. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for abnormal rise in the prices of tea in the last two months; and

(b) steps taken to bring down the tea prices to normal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) Reasons for upward trend in tea prices are increase in global demand for tea including demand for Indian tea and shortfall in tea production in countries like Kenya and Sri Lanka. Increase in the prices is not only at Indian auctions but also at other auction centres like Colombo and Mombasa.

(b) Prices of tea are not controlled. These are determined by demand and supply position in the market. However, in order to stabilise the prices, Tea Board has held discussions with the tea industry on the current tea price situation. The industry has been advised to ensure availability of sufficient tea in the market and gstrict compliance with the Tea Marketing (Control) Order 1984. A close watch is being kept on the situation.

Functioning of Market Development Assistance

1428. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) how is the functioning of the Market Development Fund now called the Market Development Assistance;

(b) what are the achievements of the MDA; and

(c) what steps will be taken to improve the functioning of MDA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) to (c) Market Development Assistance

(MDA) is used for financing various export promotion activities such as (i) market research, commodity research, area survey and research programmes; (ii) export publicity and dissemination of information; (iii) sending of trade delegations and study teams (iv) grant-in-aid to Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) and other approved organisations for developmental activities. Grant-in-aid to the EPCs has been pegged to the export performance of the respective Councils. The Councils are presently eligible to receive MDA funding to the extent of 0.01% of the export performance of the previous year with minimum and maximum limits. In addition, grants for special projects are also provided to the grantee organisations on the basis of functional requirements. The entire fund is utilised for export development activities. The EPCs are expected to meet their administrative costs from their own resources.

The allocations received during the last three years under this head are as under:—

1994-95	—	Rs. 13 crores.
1995-96	—	Rs. 16 crores.
1996-97	—	Rs. 20 crores.
Provision for 1997-98	—	Rs. 20 crores.

The MDA Scheme has proved to be a successful instrument for encouraging export promotion activities, in addition to the normal trade promotion activities like organisation of exhibitions abroad, buyer-seller meets, mounting trade delegations etc., MDA assistance is also being provided for dissemination of trade information, encouraging electronic commerce, conducting surveys and research studies etc. MDA funds are also being provided for contesting anti-dumping cases abroad. The Scheme is functioning well and has been sucessful in meeting its objectives.

Import of New and Used Tyres

1429. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS *GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed import of new and used tyres;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the policy in this regard;

(c) whether the domestic tyre manufacturing industry has opposed the policy; and

(d) if so, the details and Government's reaction to their apprehensions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under the current Export & Import Policy announced on 31.3.97, import of new and used typres has been permitted freely.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The representation of the tyre manufacturing industry is under examination and a decision, as and when taken, shall be announced through a notification.

Upward Revision of Export Targets

1430. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export targets for 1997-98 are being revised upwardly;

(b) if so, what are the proposed targets;

(c) whether the strategy to achieve these targets for exports is also going to be revised; and

(d) if so, the salient points of new strategy may be indicated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Export targets for the year 1997-98 have been fixed at US$ 39052 million. No revision has been proposed so far.